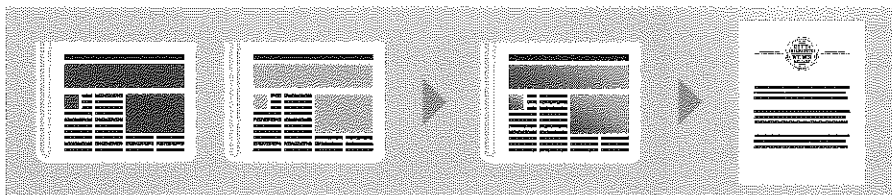




National Night Out

Among the most heavily-attended events run by the Garden District Neighborhood Association is National Night Out. Annually, it has drawn 200 plus adults and children. What's not to like with health and safety groups there to share information, police horses, motorcycles, squad cars, the Chief of Police, fire trucks, bounce houses, entertainment and more! For a couple of after work hours, it is a great place to take the family to have fun and meet the people who work to keep us safe. This year's event will be August 14. ■



Warning: News Coverage of City Hall Politics

I started my full-time work life in 1962 as a circulation manager for the Milwaukee Journal shortly after it bought the Milwaukee Sentinel and later worked on the Sentinel side. Milwaukee went from two separate newspapers to two with one owner. But if you read both papers, you got a good view of the important things happening at city hall and government in general. There still was competition between two papers in one house.

It took years before Milwaukee became a one paper town. The result is less news and views of what is going on. Then the USA Today ownership takes over the paper and the paper gets smaller and continues to reduce the number of reporters giving the public less coverage of city hall and less information as to what is going on. Don't look for a watchdog of government here. When news media simply use people's news releases to decide what is going on, you are only getting what the people who are doing news releases want you to see. ■

City Hall Politics

In my 46 years of working for the public with the City of Milwaukee, I have seen many types of Common Council. Its makeup and the council leadership may change with each election and the president of the council is elected by the members of the council at the first meeting after members themselves are elected. Those running for president promise chairmanships to get votes among other factors. The make-up of the council and the president dictate what the type of council it is.

I define them by how they vote. There have been issue-councils voting considering the facts and the best interest of all in the city on each issue considered. There have been councils that principally vote supporting the mayor and those that vote principally against the mayor. There have been councils that vote by the color of their skin.

In my first eight month term, the council seemed to vote by race. My next three terms under Hines and then Murphy as president, the councils voted on issues and the best interest of the city. This term is more an anti-mayor/color-of-our-skin council. Fairness and issues don't seem to matter much. ■

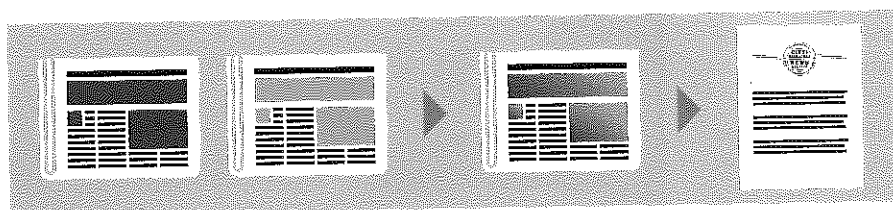
We Don't Need No Education?

The Business Journal reports that labor saving devices and technology will put an estimated 1.52 million jobs in Wisconsin at risk of being automated in the next 10-20 years. The story goes on to say that while some jobs may be eliminated, automation will create new kinds of jobs. From that I take it that an example might be yesterday's welding job vs today's welding programmer. From what I hear, a liberal arts education and ability to adapt and change become valuable traits. ■



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